

Case 2841

Platynectes Régimbart, 1879 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 for a genus of diving water beetles (family DYTISCIDAE). It is threatened by the unused senior synonym *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857.

1. Gistel (1857a, p. 606) established the genus *Plateocolymbus*; the name and description were also included in Gistel (1857b, p. 93). There is no evidence which of these two works was published first but, since Gistel (1857b) is an extract from Gistel (1857a), the latter work is taken as having priority. Gistel included in *Plateocolymbus* only the species *Colymbetes lineatus* Redtenbacher in Kollar & Redtenbacher, 1844 (p. 503) from Asia, which is the type species by monotypy. Balfour-Browne (1944, p. 352) noted that *Colymbetes lineatus* Redtenbacher (which he placed in *Platynectes*; see para. 2 below) was a junior primary homonym of *C. lineatus* Guérin, 1830, and he proposed *Platynectes kashmiranus* as a replacement name.

2. In a paper published in 1879 Régimbart (p. 462) described a new genus *Platynectes* for a group of South American, Australian and New Zealand species formerly placed in the genus *Agabus* Leach, 1817. The cover of Régimbart's paper bears the date 26 March 1878, but this is a misprint for 1879. The type species of *Platynectes* is *Agabus decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838 (p. 319), by subsequent designation by Guignot (1946, p. 117).

3. Gemminger & Harold deliberately omitted Gistel's names from the *Catalogus Coleopterorum* (1868a, p. vi), adding that 'mit einer sonst seltenen Einstimmigkeit das gesammte wissenschaftliche Publikum sein Verdikt ausgesprochen hat'. Gistel's names have rarely been cited in the literature. One exception is Strand (1917) who listed all the new names proposed by Gistel (1857b). He included *Plateocolymbus* (p. 80), this being the only published reference to the name since its original publication. Strand gave *Colymbetes lineatus* Redtenbacher as the type but did not mention the subjective synonymy of *Plateocolymbus* and *Platynectes* (see para. 4 below). Nilsson, Roughley & Brancucci (1989) overlooked all Gistel's family-group and genus-group names in the DYTISCIDAE.

4. Sharp (1882, pp. 538, 887) accepted *Platynectes* as a valid genus and included 13 species. He referred another eight species, including *P. lineatus* Redtenbacher (= *kashmiranus* Balfour-Browne), to *Platynectes* with some doubt; his hesitation over *kashmiranus* was because he knew this species only from the original description. Van den Branden (1885, p. 77) listed all these species in *Platynectes* without reservation. In Sharp's and Van den Branden's classification *Platynectes* is a junior subjective synonym of *Plateocolymbus*. All subsequent workers have accepted *Platynectes* and

have included *lineatus* or *kashmiranus* in it (for example, Régimbart, 1899, p. 281; Brinck, 1948, p. 113; Guéorguiev, 1972, p. 34; Vazirani, 1976, p. 171; a further six references by six authors in the last 23 years are held by the Commission Secretariat). To reject *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 because of its junior subjective synonymy with the unused name *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857 would create instability in the literature and cause considerable confusion.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Guignot (1946) *Agabus decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838, as published in the binomen *Agabus decemnotatus* (specific name of the type species of *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857, as suppressed in (1) above.

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